

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 9, 1941

Vol. 4, No. 4

TEBETH 10, 5701

Chalutzim Campaign to be Launched this Sunday

Baruch Zuckerman, one of the most noted personalities in World Zionism today, will be the guest speaker at the annual Chalutzim Banquet to be held Sunday, January 12th, at 7.30, at the Talmud Torah Hall. Mr. Zuckerman, who inspired his Ottawa audience last year by his brilliant power of oratory and his keen analysis of the problems of our people, is sure to be greeted by an impressive assembly of Ottawa Jewish men and women.

This year the Histadrut celebrated its twentieth anniversary in action, marking out its achievements during those two decades when Palestine showed its greatest growth. During that time the Histadrut has written its impressive document in scores of co-operative settlements, industrial enterprises, Jewish labouring youth, social and health services, enhancement of Hebrew culture, and in these latter years, the use of air, land and sea as a means of life and hope and honour for the Jewish people.

Mr. Zuckerman will present the facts to prove that even in the face of war the Histadrut has not faltered. Ever conscious of the envy of those who would swallow Palestine in their imperial schemes of world domination, the Histadrut has undertaken to stand guard faithfully over the soil that has been restored by its sweat and blood.

Local leaders of the Histadrut have issued the following call:

"Whatever tomorrow may bring to Palestine, the Histadrut will carry on in the front line of defences. They will continue to build. They will not be retarded in unexcelled accomplishment for Palestine."

"The local campaign for the pioneers in Palestine merits and will surely receive the fullest support of Ottawa Jewry."

Recommendation: Deal kindly with your Tefillin and Mezuzoth; the War has made it impossible to replenish their stocks from abroad, so that their prices keep mounting.

THE FRIDAY NIGHT ASSEMBLIES

The largest attendance of a Friday evening Oneg Shabbat was noticed on Friday, December 27th, when the people of this community turned out en masse to welcome the delegates of the A.Z.A. Regional Convention, and to listen to the oratorical contest that was held as the principal activity of the evening. (Ottawa was delighted to learn that a local Aleph, Hy Hochberg, emerged the victor of the contest.)

While the committee in charge of the services is waiting hopefully for a few out-of-town speakers to accept invitations already extended to occupy the pulpit here, Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman has announced as the tentative program of topics for the coming weeks the following:

January 10th, From the Lips of a Dying Man.

January 17th, The Position of Canadian Zionism.

January 24th, Pharaoh and Fuehrer.

January 31st, The Cords of Consecration.

February 7th, Judaism Faces Nature.

February 14th, To Be a Judge.

The Committee wishes to remind the younger members of the Jewish Community that these services are primarily designated in their behalf, and to urge them to come and bring their friends.

The Last Days of Henri Bergson

The grandson of a Polish rabbi, Henri Bergson, one of the greatest philosophers of modern times and a Nobel Prize winner, consistently refused throughout his life to be identified with the Jewish people. Two weeks ago, however, when the Vichy Government offered to recognize his tremendous contributions to French culture by granting him exemption from the anti-Jewish decrees, he rejected such "charity" and surrendered voluntarily his privileges.

Having thus permitted his Jewish blood to reassert itself in an act of courage and nobility, last week Henri Bergson, weary with the burden of years, went to his eternal rest.

VAAD HA'IR ESTABLISHES RABBI'S STUDY

A long felt need in the Jewish community has been filled by the establishment of a study for the rabbi in the Talmud Torah building. A special committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Thomas Sachs, is proceeding to furnish a room on the second floor of the building where the office of the spiritual leader of Ottawa will be housed. It is believed that the central location of the building will enable more members of our community to get in touch with the Rabbi, whenever they are in need of his service.

Among the projects that will be managed from this office is the creation of a carefully kept communal registry, in which all events of such a nature as births, barmitzvahs, weddings, etc., will be recorded; and secondly, a census of Jewish education for the children in our community.

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman has expressed the hope that the office will become one of the very busy spots in Ottawa.

Ottawa Zionist Delegates Named

Twenty-three prominent Ottawa Zionists were elected delegates to the 26th National Zionist Convention, which will be held in Montreal on January 19-20 at a meeting in the Talmud Torah Hall Thursday night, January 2nd.

Heading the list are Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman and Rev. J. Rabin. Those elected by members of the Ottawa Zionist Association and contributors to the United Palestine Appeal were:

Rabbi Fasman, Rev. Rabin, Lawrence Freiman, J. Freedman, A. Betcherman, Sam Berger, Simon J. Ritt, H. Greenblatt, M. Cohen, L. S. Greenberg, S. Lepofsky, Max Feller, R. Edelstein, M. Levinson, T. Metrick, S. Miller, J. E. Simon, I. Stone, A. Shaffer, S. Zelikovitz, D. Epstein, J. C. Horwitz and B. Bookman.

Rabbi Jesse Schwartz of Montreal attended and spoke briefly to the gathering. Mr. S. Ritt acted as chairman and Mr. J. C. Horwitz as secretary of the meeting.

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Published monthly by

The Ottawa Jewish Community Council

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

A. J. Freiman.....	President
C. Caplan	Vice-president
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The End of United Jewish Appeal

The Jews of Canada will not be surprised to hear that the great experiment in the United States that was known as the United Jewish Appeal, consisting of The Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal Drives, has finally collapsed. In the Dominion the understanding has always prevailed that the cause of Zionism carries with it a much broader philosophy and a much more constructive approach to the solution of the Jewish problem than mere philanthropy. In the States, on the other hand, in order to simplify the arrangement of campaigns for funds, the Zionist Organization agreed to merge its intensive work with the very general scheme that the Joint sponsored for the relief of Jewish suffering. We are now informed that the American plan will not be followed this year, and that the two major causes will conduct independent drives, just as we in Canada have always been accustomed to do.

The truth of the matter is that Canadian Jewry has been more intelligently organized for the philosophy of Jewish nationalism than its brother in the States. For this reason the percentage of Canadian Jews who have been actively enrolled in Zionist ranks exceeds by far the American percentage. Ottawans in particular know that the leadership furnished Zionism in this country by Mr. A. J. Freiman and the late Mrs. Freiman, whom nobody would charge to have been negligent of their responsibilities in all questions of relief, inspired the members of our faith here with a sense of dignity about the movement that was, and perhaps still is, sadly lacking there.

The hope should now be expressed, and the prayer fervently offered, that those who guide the destinies of Zionism in the United States will take advantage of the separation that has come, and will now rally all their energy in order to preach an undiluted, vigorous, and dynamic doctrine that will awaken their followers to the full significance of the present situation in Palestine, and that will be productive of much more than cold dollars. In the last analysis, the Holy Land requires, in addition to the careful calculation of statistics, finances, organizational material, a passionate and unswerving devotion to its interests. Such a devotion could not very easily have been generated so long as the Palestine Appeal was weighted down with the duty of carrying along in its propaganda the urgent messages of the Joint, for that these messages cried out for a hearing, nobody, and least of all a genuine Zionist, will doubt.

The field, then, has now been reopened for an educational program of Zionism in the largest Jewish Community in the world that is replete with possibilities for transforming the movement into an irresistible and tremendous power, unequalled by anything in its past history. We in Canada look forward expectantly to a new era in American Zionism.

The Torah Crosses the Oceans!

In devious ways has Providence ordained that the Torah shall travel from land to land. Two generations ago the Elders of Israel in America refused to believe that any intensive knowledge of Jewish tradition and lore would ever be known on this continent. The attitude amounted to a resignation to the fate, for eternity, of ignorance in these new Jewries of the world. An occasional dreamer would not allow himself thus easily to be discouraged, and we are keenly aware of the irreparable loss we recently sustained when Dr. Bernard Revel (of blessed memory!) who founded the first large Yeshiva in the New World despite scoffers and sceptics, passed to his everlasting reward. But even the work of the dreamers was regarded as freak accomplishment, having no natural foundation and, therefore, no natural future.

The European upheaval should be instrumental in banishing forever this unfortunate misconception. As a consequence of the destruction of Jewish life in Europe, hundreds of the world's most promising Talmud scholars have been arriving in the United States, after crossing either the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean. These honoured visitors are amazed to find that America is not so completely the wilderness they had been accustomed to picture. If they do not meet with their equals in scholarship, at least they have discovered that there are a large number of Jews in these countries who have been adequately enough grounded in the traditional studies to appreciate the value of what the guests bring with them. Already a considerable group of men who headed large seminaries and academies in the Old Home have found appointments for themselves in the rapidly growing Yeshivah in the States. Others again, who held outstanding pulpits in Europe, have been invited to act as the spiritual leaders of American Synagogues that still need this type of religious guidance.

The result of these appointments cannot be measured this early, but those who are in close touch with the Jewish life of our continent recognize already that we have received such an invaluable transfusion of new blood that ignorance on the vast scale that once loomed so fearful in our lives has definitely been driven back. No rash prophecy can be ventured now that all the children of Israel will be sages in the coming generation, yet the prediction may be safely made that the numbers of young people born here who will respond to this invasion, so to speak, of Jewish piety and wisdom will be trebled and quadrupled several times over in the coming years. And whoever is cognizant of the development of intellectual interests knows that the creation of a small but well integrated group of learned leaders sends out rays of influence that step up the scholarly level in the widening concentric circles of society about them. The Torah in America has clearly taken a newer and stronger lease on life, and, regret as we must the circumstances that are responsible, the fact in itself must evoke our sincerest gratitude.

Correspondence About Jewish Internees in Canada

Several members of our community, and especially the Rabbi, have been receiving mail from the United States asking about Jewish internees in Canadian camps, who were sent to the Dominion from England after the outbreak of the war. The reason that letters of inquiry come to Ottawa so frequently is that the letters of these internees are postmarked Ottawa, and the recipients get the impression that the writers are in our city. It is recommended that all such inquiries be referred to the National Committee in Canada that is in charge of such matters; namely, Mr. Saul Hayes 1121 St. Catherine Street West, Montreal, Quebec.

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman recommends that those who arrange for social affairs on Sunday to which they invite, among others, such people as are scrupulous in their observance of the religious code, should have the foresight to inform whoever does the baking, whether an individual or a shop, not to bake before Shabbos is over in preparation for that affair. Ordinary courtesy would dictate that so much thought should be given to the conscientious interests of certain guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edelstein will be at home Sunday, January 12th, in honour of the Bar-Mitzvah of their son, Billy.

Talmud Classes

The Saturday afternoon Shiur for boys is now being conducted by the Rabbi at the Cong. Agudath Achim, Rideau St., at 4.15 p.m. The boys have begun to study the tractate of Beza.

Every Tuesday night, from eight to nine o'clock, the Rabbi says a "Blatt" in the tractate of Shabbos at the Cong. Machzikei Hadath, Murray Street.

The Breakfast Club

Attendance at the Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club, which meets each Sunday, 9.00 a.m., at the Cong. Agudath Achim, Rideau Street, under the direction of Herman Roodman, is steadily forging ahead. The programs this year have been more varied than in the past, and the members have been correspondingly more appreciative. Any Jewish boy who has passed his Bar Mitzvah is welcome.

Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School To Publish

The resumption of classes on Sunday, January 12th, in the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School is impatiently awaited by all the pupils, but the members of the Rabbi's Senior Girls Class are especially eager to return in order to proceed with their project of editing a mimeographed newspaper once every few weeks. The animated discussions of eighteen young ladies on matters of Jewish tradition and Jewish current events are expected to furnish instructive and fascinating columns to the journalistic venture. (The Senior Girls Class is open to girls thirteen years of age and older.)

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Two recent magazine items are recommended to our readers. In the January issue of the Reader's Digest is an article entitled "Now I'm for the Churches," that is of all the greater interest, because it is taken from the sceptical American Mercury. The first number of Time, 1941, in which, incidentally, Winston Churchill is selected as Man of the Year, carries some provocative paragraphs in a discussion of the Bnai Brith Hillel Foundations.

Back to the Synagogue!

National bodies of Jewish congregations in the United States and Canada will carry on intensive propaganda this year for a "Back to the Synagogue!" movement. Feeling runs strong that the faith of Israel in its future must be bolstered spiritually by a mass return to religious services. Some synagogues have even adopted resolutions to the effect that one cannot be a member in good standing unless, in addition to the payment of dues, he attends worship at least one Sabbath each month.

Along with the emphasis upon the Sabbath services goes an appeal for coming to the synagogue whenever possible during the week and on Sunday. The sorry spectacle of waiting for a "minyan" would vanish in the wake of an aroused consciousness among American Jews that the House of God has an urgent claim upon their time.

Every synagogue in Ottawa should endeavour to sponsor the "Back to the Synagogue" idea among its own congregants.

Did you notice the observation of an American citizen of Italian birth that Mussolini's War is so unpopular with his people that the Italian soldiers in Albania and Africa are not advancing in the wrong direction after all?

Annual Vaad Ha'ir Meeting

The annual meeting of the Vaad Ha'ir will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26th, 10.30 a.m., at the Talmud Torah. The President of the Vaad, Mr. A. J. Freiman, will be in the chair.

Two principal matters are on the agenda: the election of officers and the reports of all committees. The chairmen of the latter will summon meetings of their groups prior to that date in order to be able to present a complete account of activities.

Talmud Torah Notes

Scoutmaster Hy Mazur has appointed Scouts Barrett and Borts to supervise the current Ping Pong Tournament at the Talmud Torah. Mr. I. Lief, Principal, has put into their hands the list of boys and girls whose scholarship and attendance records make them eligible to participate. Approximately thirty candidates for the championship are in the fray, and observers note considerable enthusiasm among them.

The tournament fulfills a promise made by Rabbi Fasman several months ago.

* * *

Two important decisions about the new Morning Minyan Club buttons were brought back by the Rabbi from the Executive Committee of his Rabbinical Association in Chicago. First, boys past Bar Mitzvah are also eligible to earn a button. Secondly, among the cities in Canada and the United States which will be the first to issue the button on Chamishah Asar Bishvat, Ottawa will be an honoured pioneer.

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The Chanukah Program presented by the children of the Talmud Torah on the last day of the holiday convinced all the parents that their sons and daughters were receiving a splendid Jewish education, and were enjoying their Hebrew studies. The teachers are proud of their pupils; Ottawa is proud of their teachers.

Delegates to National Hadassah Convention

Ottawa will send a large delegation of local Hadassah leaders to represent it at the National Convention of Hadassah, to be held in Montreal January 20-21. Most of the chapters here have already chosen their delegates, but a complete list was not available at the time of going to press. More than twenty-five women are expected to be officially accredited.

Possibility for Palestine

Serious consideration is being given by the British Colonial Office to a plan for the formation of a Federation of Arab States in the Near East, with Palestine to be an autonomous Jewish unit within it. Zionists will await full details of the scheme before determining their reaction to it. In the meantime the opportunities for the purchase of additional land by the Jewish National Fund have increased, and it is recognized that the stronger our hold upon the soil, the better our position to effect a favourable issue of the negotiations.

Come to the Friday Night Services!

Rabbinical speculation: If all the young boys who were present at the T.T.A.C. affair last Sunday evening would attend the Breakfast Club meetings on Sunday morning; and if all the young girls who were there would attend the Senior Girls Class in the Sunday School, how many fathers and mothers would be proud!

Hint for naming a new-born child: You may find the English name to be derived from the translation of the Hebrew name preferable to an English name based on the use of similar letters. You might also consider putting the very name itself into English letters, as Mordecai instead of Morris.

Young People's Groups

NOTICE

The Rabbi is interested in forming a central council of all the Young People's Groups in our Community, with a view to planning their annual activities with the maximum amount of co-operation between them. To this council every club and organization of the young people in our city would send two representatives. Such councils have been known to perform very valuably and effectively in other communities, and the Rabbi is convinced that we can derive great benefit from profiting by the experience of others.

Have your Secretary mail to the Rabbi a brief summary about your group, to indicate its size, purpose, frequency of meetings, and type of activities. Your group should gain much from this project.

"LIKE THE SAND"

In a recent sermon, Rabbi Fasman gave a novel interpretation to the Biblical promise that Israel would be like the sand. Perhaps Ottawans can understand this interpretation a bit better than most communities:

"When the sidewalks become covered with ice so that it is dangerous for pedestrians to walk upon them, the Government of our city sends men to sand them. The sprinkling of a little sand upon the slippery surfaces makes the difference between the ability to walk and the menace of losing one's balance. Similarly, it has been the function of the ethical and moral teachings of Israel to afford mankind the ability to walk safely and securely, without losing its footing and sliding aimlessly from side to side, or falling helplessly with a heavy thud to the ground. In other words, the progress of humanity would have been impossible without the existence of a small nation that God had ordained to be like the sand."

The next issue of the Bulletin will appear about the middle of February. Material for it must be submitted before February 5th.

Y. P. L. Music Appreciation Group

The most active group in the Young People's League of the United Synagogues of Ottawa this year is unquestionably the Music Appreciation Group. Meeting on Sunday evenings twice a month, the group has an average attendance of more than fifty young people, and it has been especially grateful to the Board of the Congregation Adath Jeshurun for being allowed, temporarily, to meet in the vestry rooms of the Synagogue.

Explanation

Although in mourning for his mother this year, the Rabbi sometimes appears, by virtue of official obligation, at public affairs from which he advises other mourners to absent themselves. There are legal provisions in Jewish law that permit religious dignitaries to perform their duties in such situations.

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will be away from the city on January 19-20, in order to attend the Zionist Convention in Montreal.

War Services Committee

Quietly, steadily and efficiently the Bnai Brith War Services Committee has been acting to assist Jewish boys in the services, both here and overseas, and to contribute to various programs of entertainment for large groups of soldiers, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. If you know of any Ottawa Jewish boy whose name is still unknown to the Committee, please get in touch with Magistrate A. Lief.

Hebrew Free Loan Association

The Ottawa Gemiluth Chasadim (Free Loan Association) will shortly publish the record of its most useful year. Both in the total number of individuals aided and in the total sums of money loaned, 1940 was an outstanding period. At the same time the capital of the Fund was greatly increased by many voluntary contributions from people who value the true holiness of this major mitzvah. Every Jew should try to become a member.

The requirement that every Bar Mitzvah be registered with the Rabbi has brought worthy results. Families whose celebrations might conflict with one another have been able to plan their arrangements far enough in advance to avoid such a problem.

The tenth day of Tebeth is a Fast Day, because on it began the siege that resulted in the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

NEWCOMERS TO OTTAWA

Many newcomers to Ottawa arrive every week, and the lack of a Community Center makes it difficult for them to establish quick social contacts. It has been suggested that the Friday Night Services ought to be one type of gathering at which they might become acquainted, after the services, with some of our residents. Ottawa is known everywhere for its hospitality, but the hospitality can be extended only when the visitors make themselves known.

The newcomers will also find our secretary, L. Harry Goldman, at 2-9508, happy to add their names to the communal mailing list.

When were YOU in your synagogue last?